

Janet T. Mills
Governor

Jeanne M. Lambrew,
Ph.D.



Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Child and Family Services
11 State House Station
2 Anthony Avenue
Augusta, Maine 04333-0011
Tel.: (207) 624-7900; Toll Free: (877) 680-5866
TTY: Dial 711 (Maine Relay); Fax: (207) 287-5282

DATE: February 14, 2020
TO: Maine Licensed Child Care Providers
FROM: Crystal Arbour, Child Care Services Program Manager
SUBJECT: CCSP Infant/Toddler Initiative

The Office of Child & Family Services (OCFS) has been working to formalize a strategic plan that meets the needs of both early care educators and families utilizing the Child Care Subsidy Program (CCSP). In December of 2019, Congress released spending plans for Federal fiscal year 2020, including a \$550 million increase for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program. Of this amount, Maine is expected to receive an increase of approximately \$8 million (versus the base of Federal fiscal year 2017). Maine is waiting on final confirmation of the allocation.

CCDBG is the primary funding source for CCSP. OCFS has worked proactively to plan for this increase in funding to best meet the specific needs of Maine children and families. We developed the following spending plan for the increased CCDBG funding based on the goals and strategies of the Children's Cabinet, the needs assessment and strategic plan that resulted from the Preschool Development Grant Planning Grant, the child care mapping conducted with the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the three-year CCDBG State Plan. Part of this plan focuses on increasing providers accepting infants and toddlers through financial benefits. One of the strategies is to provide licensed child care providers with a CCSP agreement an opportunity to receive a weekly stipend of up to \$100 per infant and a 10% quality bump payment for infant/toddlers.

Providers must be participating in the Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS), have an updated registry of staff in Maine Roads to Quality (MRTQ), and be in compliance with the required CCDF state approved 6-hour health and safety training at the time of each payment cycle.

The up to \$100 per week stipend will go to providers caring for infants receiving CCSP who are in care for twenty (20) or more hours per week. The 10% quality bump payment for infant/or toddlers (I/T) is for any CCSP Provider caring for infants and toddlers and is not dependent on hours of care. The 10% I/T bump payment will be based on market rate or provider rate and billed hours per week. Rates will not exceed the Department established market rate or the child care provider's rate, whichever is less.

Infant means a child six (6) weeks of age through twelve (12) months of age. Toddler means (12) months through thirty-six (36) months of age.

The Department expects the benefits to begin by early summer. For more information on CCSP or becoming a CCSP provider please contact our office at 1-877-680-5866 or 207-624-7999 or CCSP.DHHS@Maine.gov

If you have further questions about the health and safety training, to update your MRTQ registry, to sign up for QRIS, or other MRTQ PDN services, please contact MRTQ at 1-888-900-0055 or mrtq.contact@maine.edu